AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging page 16, line 21 through page 17, line 6 of the specification with the following:

For simplicity, each of the four identical fold-decoders 201a-201d generates the above fold-status information by speculatively assuming that the first byte in the group of successive bytes spanned represents the first byte in a group of up to three successive instructions ~~which~~ and checks for folding properties of those instructions based upon that assumption. In reality, the first byte input to a given fold-decoder 201a-201d may not be the first (or only) byte of an instruction or of a foldable group of instructions.